DAWLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Council Offices,
King Street,
Dawley.

INTERIM REPORT on the HEALTH and SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES of the URBAN DISTRICT of DAWLEY for the YEAR 1943.

Once again the Ministry of Health has required that the Report of the Health of the District shall be presented in abbrevigted interim form.

In common with the neighbouring districts a sharp epidemic of measles was experienced and accompanying this was a rise in the number of cases of whooping cough, although this was of a much lesser degree. Two cases only, of diphtheria were reported, thus maintaining the standard of recent years. A welcome drop in numbers, occurred with scarlet fever; one quarter of the cases of the previous year occurring. Details are given of the frequency and age grouping of individual diseases in the relavant section of the report.

The proportionate rise of total numbers of notified tuberculosis cases was less than in 1942, but, nevertheless, there was a slight increase, difficult to assess with so much movement of population.

Vital Statistics show that the Birth rate is higher than that averaging generally, while the Death rate is slightly below that of the Country.

Short notes have been made of the conditions prevailing in each branch of sanitary service, but there is no doubt that the refuse collection scheme was the main concern of the Council during the year.

The Medical Officer of Health takes this opportunity of wishing your Sanitary Inspector every success in his new appointment and thanking him for his part in the compilation of this Report.

STATISTICS & SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area(in acres)..... 3,000.

Estimated population..... 7,875.

No:of inhabited houses at Dec: 31st 1943 (per Rate Book)..... 2,179.

Rateable value..... £18.074.

Sum represented by 1d. rate..... £ 72- 12-0.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.....	73	64	137.
Illegitimate.....	8	6	14.
Totals.....	81	70	151.

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population..... 19.1

Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population - England & Wales..... 16.5

STILL BIRTHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Legitimate.....	Nil.	1	1.
Illegitimate.....	Nil.	1	1.
Totals.....	Nil.	2.	2.

Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births 13.0

DEATHS.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Total number of deaths.....	44.	50.	94.

Death rate per 1,000 population 11.9

Death rate per 1,000 population - England & Wales..... 12.1

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Infants per 1,000 live births..... 39.7

INFANTILE MORTALITY (Cont).

All infants per 1,000 live births - England & Wales 49.0

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate births 43.0

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate births..... Nil.

Total number of infant deaths ..... Legitimate = 8.

..... Illegitimate = Nil.

TOTAL.... = 8.

DEATHS.

From :- Cancer.....(All ages)..... 15.

Measles.....(All ages)..... Nil.

Whooping Cough...(All Ages)..... Nil.

Diarrhoea.....(Under 2 yrs)..... 1.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

Under this heading there were no deaths.

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATHS.

Tuberculosis. (All forms)..... Nil.

Influenza ..... 3.

Cancer..... 15.

Intra-cranial Haemhorrage..... 16.

Heart disease & Circulatory disturbances..... 19.

Diabetes..... 2.

Chest Conditions..... 18.

Nephritis..... 4.

Violence..... 7.

AMBULANCE.

During the year the ambulance was maintained by the Council, in spite of difficulties experienced with part-time attendants and mechanical break-downs.

The position now, as then, is that it becomes more apparent that a new vehicle is essential, together with a revision of the service as a whole.

NIGHT SOIL & REFUSE COLLECTION.

Difficulties on an ever increasing scale were encountered due to the labour situation, delay in repairs, and illness amongst the men employed.

The position is of course, aggravated by the lack of sewers and proper sewage disposal works. Whilst the presence of so many privies and pail closets is to be deprecated, the situation cannot be eased by conversion until these works are in being.

It is to be hoped that in the ensuing year the labour situation may improve and ease the general conditions in this service.

VERMIN INFESTATION.

During the year, in accordance with the Order issued, a survey was made under the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Order 1943. As a result, no major infestations were recorded and only a few minor ones located.

The powers of the Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act 1919 are vested in the County Council. Any infestations located and reported since the Survey have been referred to them for appropriate action.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Supplies continue to be obtained from the Borough of Wenlock. The saving of water by the Public has again been stressed by public advertisement and attention drawn to the dangers of waste.

WATER SUPPLIES (Cond)

During the year the monthly supply has been 5,970,000 gallons. and the pumps have worked on an average 19 hrs. 53 mins. per day.

Periodical samples of water have been taken and results have been satisfactory. Chlorination is still continued to safeguard the supply.

Although moderately hard the quality of the water has been maintained at a high standard. Chemical analysis shows complete absence of nitrites and injurious metals, whilst bacterial examination has shown consistant negative counts.

It is estimated that at the moment only 3.0 to 3.5 % of the houses in the district are obtaining water for domestic purposes from public standpipes; the reduction resulting in many being dismantled.

SEWAGE & SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The work on the five main outfalls has been maintained and the respective effluents have been sampled with satisfactory results.

It should be noted however, that the ground used for lagooning is fast reaching saturation point, and the time has been reached when proper disposal works and a new sewage system are more than urgently required.

HOUSING.

The demand for houses has been even greater than before and the Council's waiting list for Council Houses increases continually.

An ambitious Post-War scheme is hoped to be developed in the ensuing year, and preliminary details had been commenced before the close of 1943.

With the war-time marriages and demobilisation, the demand for houses is bound to assume an alarming proportion and every effort will be made to meet this demand reasonably.

MILK & DAIRIES.

Routine inspections were carried out during the year at the twenty eight registered premises which includes five Accredited farms. Satisfactory results were obtained therefrom. A small amount of souring reported during the summer, was due to lack of proper storage facilities before delivery and collection and neglect of minor details.

MEAT & OTHER FOODS.

Under the rationing scheme, meat supplies are still obtained from the M.O.F., Depot, Shrewsbury.

During the year the following articles of food were condemned:-

Bacon.....	34.	lbs.
Eggs.....	27.	lbs.
Flour.....	1470.	lbs.
Tins of varying types of canned goods.....	483.	lbs.
Jars of preserves.....	17.	lbs.
Total...	2031.	lbs.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND ALLIED DISEASES.

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year, together with the mortality:-

DISEASES	Cases notified.		Deaths.
	1943	1942.	
Measles.....	121.	2.	-
Whooping Cough.....	41.	17.	-
Diphtheria.....	2.	1.	-
Scarlet Fever.....	4.	16.	-

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.(Cont)

DISEASES.	Cases notified. 1943	1942.	Deaths.
Pneumonia.....	26.	9.	3.
Puerperal Pyrexia.....	2.	3.	[illegible]
Dysentry.....	1.	-	-
Erysipelas.....	1.	1.	-

INCIDENCE OF DISEASES IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS.

Years.	Measles.		Whooping Cough.		Diphtheria.		Scalet Fever.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-	3.	3.	3.	6.	-	-	-	-
1-	4.	1.	3.	3.	-	-	-	1.
3-	17.	14.	3.	8.	-	-	-	-
5-	35.	34.	8.	6.	-	-	1.	1.
10-	5.	1.	-	1.	-	-	1.	-
15-	2.	1.	-	[illegible]	-	1	-	-
25-	-	1.	-	-	-	1.	-	-

years.	Pneumonia.	
	Male.	Female.
0-	1.	2.
5-	3.	1.
15-	4.	4.
45-	7.	2.
65-	2.	-

SCABIES.

Twelve cases were treated at the Newport Centre and thirteen at Donnington. A great service was rendered by these two centres, although circumstances arose which limited the use of the Donnington Auxillary Centre.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

Return as submitted during 1943 to the Ministry of Health was as Follows:-

	Under 5 years	Over 5 & under 15.	Total.
No:of children(including temporary residents) completing full course of immunization 1st Jan: to 31st Dec: 1943.	145	93.	238.
Approx: estimate of No: of children in Authority's area on 31st Dec 1943.	860	1140.	2000.
% of child pop:considered to be Immunized.	76%	90%	-

The clinical side of the scheme for Diphtheria Prophylaxis continued to be administered by the County Health Department. The above figures include those cases done privately by General Practitioners serving Dawley Area.

TUBERCULOSIS.

The number of notified cases in the register at 31st Dec: 1943, and the comparative figures for 1941 - 42 are as follows:-

Year.	Male.		Female.		Total.
	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.	
1943.	36.	36.	38.	34.	144.
1942.	34.	39.	36.	33.	142.
1941.	32.	36.	31.	31.	130.

NEW CASES.

Pulmonary.	Non-pulmonary.		Total.
5.....	1.....	=	6.

DEATH RATES.

	DAWLEY.	ENGLAND & WALES.
Death rate for pulmonary T.B. per 1,000.	Nil.	0.50*
Death rate for non-pulmonary T.B.per 1,000:	Nil.	0.1*
Total death rate. (All forms).....	Nil.	0.61*

(N.B. * indicates provisional figures).

TUBERCULOSIS (Cont).

NEW CASES.

Age Group.	New Cases.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 - 5.....	-	-	-	-
5 - 15.....	-	-	-	1.
15 - 25.....	2.	1.	-	-
25 - 35.....	-	-	-	-
35 - 45.....	-	-	-	-
45 - 55.....	1.	-	-	-
55 - 65.....	-	-	-	-
65 & over...	1.	-	-	-
Totals....	4.	1.	-	1.

CANCER.

The number of deaths from cancer in 1943 was 15.

(6 = Males, and 9 = Females).

	DAWLEY.	ENGLAND & WALES.
Death rate per 1,000,000 living	1904.	1723.

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20th. July 1944.

W. A. M. STEWART,

Medical Officer of Health.